

Case 2693***Trionyx sinensis* Wiegmann, 1834 (Reptilia, Testudines): proposed conservation of the specific name**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the name *Trionyx sinensis* Wiegmann, 1834 for a turtle by the suppression of the senior subjective synonym *Testudo rostrata* Thunberg, 1787.

1. Thunberg described the turtle *Testudo rostrata* in 1787. As noted by Lönnberg (1896, p. 33), Thunberg first mentioned the name *Testudo rostrata* with only brief comments in Latin (1787a, p. 21). Later in the same year he repeated the comments and gave a more elaborate description in Swedish (1787b, p. 179); this paper was published in German the following year (1788, p. 173). The comments in the first paper (1787a) are adequate to make the name available.

2. Webb (1985, p. 85) described and figured the holotype of *Testudo rostrata* from the Linnaean Collection in the Zoological Museum of the University of Uppsala and outlined the history of the name. He demonstrated that *Testudo rostrata* is a senior synonym of *Trionyx sinensis* Wiegmann. *Testudo rostrata* has not been used as a valid name since Lönnberg (1896, p. 34) considered it to be a synonym of *Trionyx swinhonis* (correct original spelling *swinhoei*) Gray, 1873. *Trionyx* or *Rafetus swinhoei* is regarded as a distinct species (Meylan & Webb, 1988).

3. The name *Trionyx* (*Aspidonectes*) *sinensis* was made available by Wiegmann in the work *Beiträge zur Zoologie, gesammelt auf einer Reise um die Erde von Dr. F. J. F. Meyen* (p. 189). This work is usually dated as published in 1835. However, Dr. R. I. Crombie, Division of Amphibians and Reptiles, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C., has made a detailed study of Wiegmann's original publications and the incidental literature surrounding Meyen's *Reise* and has established that it appeared in 1834. Thus, the name *Trionyx sinensis* Wiegmann was made available in 1834.

4. In Opinion 660 (1963, BZN 20: 187–190), the name *Trionyx sinensis* Wiegmann was conserved by suppression of the senior synonym *Testudo semimembranacea* Hermann, 1804 and was placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology. It is now necessary to conserve it against its senior subjective synonym *Testudo rostrata*.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *rostrata* Thunberg, 1787, as published in the binomen *Testudo rostrata*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;

- (2) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *rostrata* Thunberg, 1787, as published in the binomen *Testudo rostrata*, and as suppressed in (1) above.
- (3) to amend the entry on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology for the name *sinensis* Wiegmann, as published in the binomen *Trionyx sinensis*, to be taken from 1834 and not 1835.

References

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